

## **BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)**

Technical Committee Minutes - February 10, 2009

Page 1

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### **Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

### **Those present were:**

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Terry Moulthane, City of Bay City; Dale Majerczyk, City of Essexville; Dave Geiger, MDOT-Saginaw; Rachel Tupica, FHWA and; Mike Stoner, Bay Metro Transit.

### **Minutes from December 4, 2008 Tech meeting:**

It was moved by Gaydos, seconded by Majerczyk, to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2008 meeting. Motion Passed.

### **BCATS 2008-11 TIP Amendments:**

Engelhardt provided members with a spreadsheet handout that listed the BCATS 2008-11 TIP Amendments for various Bay Metro Transit projects and the MDOT ITS System project. The BMTA projects listed are those that went unfunded in 2008 and are being moved forward to 2009 or 2010, several with updated cost values, and the addition of projects in 2011. There is also a deletion of one 2008 project that didn't get funded. Bay Metro Transit Authority has to have projects ready to go and included in the TIP in order to qualify for possible stimulus funding. The MDOT ITS System Project will include digital message signage and CC cameras also the I-75 and US-10 corridor that will inform drivers of possible problems they may encounter.

A motion was made by Lillo, seconded by Gaydos, to make favorable recommendation to the BCATS Policy Committee to approve and include the Bay Metro Transit amendments listed on the handout to the 2008-11 TIP. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Majerczyk, seconded by Stoner, to make favorable recommendation to the BCATS Policy Committee to approve and include the MDOT ITS System project amendment listed on the handout to the 2008-11 TIP. Motion passed.

### **Discuss Economic Stimulus Legislation/Funding Updates:**

Engelhardt provided everyone with a copy of the Kirk Steudle letter which estimates approximately \$2,000,000 of stimulus funding will be going to BCATS. It is expected that the Two-Million will need to be spent over two-years. However, nothing is settled and it's important that BCATS have projects ready to go at a fast turn around rate. The target is a 90 day provision for the first half of the funds. Discussion ensued.

### **Prioritize Implementing Agency Projects for Economic Stimulus Funding:**

One project being considered to receive stimulus funding is the Marquette "S" Curve project which is ready to begin. However, this project is already being partially funded with a Safety Grant. Gaydos wanted to know if the stimulus funds could be used in conjunction with the Safety Grant. Tupica thought that there would be a problem using both funding sources for the project with MDOT. Gaydos also mentioned that he has a another project he'd like to submit for stimulus funds which is a concrete joint repair for Truman Parkway with new lights that can be ready to go for around one million.

## **BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)**

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Page 2

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Lillo had several projects he thought would be easy to turn around in a short amount of time, such as the Bay Arenac Road project, two miles on Wilder Road which may receive Category F funding, and mill and fill projects on State Road and North Union Road.

Majerczyk had one project, Borton Ave, that could be ready for stimulus funding.

Engelhardt was glad to see that there were some smaller projects that could benefit from the potential stimulus fund. Any and all projects have to go through the standard planning process and be let through the MDOT process just like normal Federal STP funds. Engelhardt felt that some good projects had been identified.

Engelhardt discussed the importance of prioritizing implementing agency projects that will be available for economic stimulus funding. Engelhardt also stressed the importance of having these prioritized projects included in the TIP in order for them to be eligible to receive any economic stimulus funding. Engelhardt thought that the group should review the priority list projects against those currently in BCATS 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Engelhardt believes that once a prioritized project list has been created BCATS will have to fulfill the requirement of public participation in some fashion if not during the normal course of BCATS meetings. Engelhardt plans to get together with Majerczyk, Gaydos and Lillo to create a prioritized projects list for economic stimulus funding.

### **Discuss Current TIP Amendment Policy:**

Engelhardt discussed the current BCATS TIP Amendment Policy and talked about the possible change for amendments for the Economic Stimulus projects. Engelhardt would like to be given authority to make TIP Amendments administratively for projects that are related to the Economic Stimulus Funding in order to avoid missing potential deadlines.

A motion was made by Moulthane, seconded by Moulthane, to make favorable recommendation to the BCATS Policy Committee to allow Engelhardt the authorization to amend the BCATS 2008-11 TIP through moving projects from a prioritized list of projects once in agreement with implementing agencies. Motion passed.

### **BCATS 2010-11-12-13 TIP Development:**

Engelhardt discussed the thirty (30) day public involvement requirement for a new 2010-11-12-13 TIP. Therefore, Engelhardt would like the a list of prioritized projects for inclusion in the TIP for April's meeting in order to hold the 30 day public review prior to June when the new TIP must be approved.

### **Asset Management IRT Reporting:**

The Asset Management IRT reporting is due by April 1, 2009. Seventy five percent of the reporting is complete. However, there are no cost reporting details. The on-line reporting website system is being cleaned up so that it will be easier to use.

### **Trumbull/Wilder Corridor Update:**

Gaydos gave an overview of the Trumbull/Wilder Road Corridor project and discussed the inventory data needed by MDOT. A meeting will take place in April to further discuss the corridor. At the meeting, MDOT will provide the results from the Travel Demand Model that will determine where the traffic is coming from and going to on the corridor.

**Non-Motorized Update:**

Engelhardt discussed updating the BCATS Non-Motorized Plan, providing members with a copy of the old plan and asking for comments and suggestion on format and content. Engelhardt explained that Bay County was in the final stages of the Recreation Plan, so it would be a great time to update the BCATS Non-Motorized Plan. It's important to determine what is in the best interest of BCATS when creating/updating such a plan. Engelhardt stressed the importance of connectivity throughout all of Bay County. Moulane suggested that Jim Bedell from the City of Bay City be involved with this project. Westbury will send Moulane an electronic copy of the previous BCATS Non-Motorized Plan so that the City of Bay City can review it and make comments on how much involvement the city will have in the new plan.

Engelhardt gave a progress update of Phase II of the Tri-County Regional Path Study. There will be an unveiling of the Phase II findings given at Delta College on March 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Project Updates:**

The **Woodside Avenue Project** is considered closed as the contractor (Pyramid) did not file a claim in a timely manner. The GI for the **Christa McAuliffe Safe Routes to Schools Project** is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> and will be constructed this summer. The **Liberty Bridge** paint job was completed on time. The **Independence Bridge** is currently being painted for a few more weeks and will then be closed again after Memorial Day for critical bridge repairs to the section over the railroad and Water St.

**Other/New Business:**

***MDOT Call for Enhancement Projects:***

Engelhardt received a phone call this morning from Matt Opsommer of MDOT to discuss the MDOT call for Enhancement Projects. Mr. Opsommer indicated that he would like a list from BCATS. Engelhardt thought that the Delta College/SVSU Trail Project might be a good fit for the MDOT project list. Engelhardt told members that he would like to know if they have any shelf-ready projects that he could add to the BCATS Enhancement Project List for Mr. Opsommer. Such projects need to be written up (description, cost estimate, time table, etc.) and submitted to Dave Engelhardt immediately so that he can forward them to Mr. Opsommer.

As there was no other business, the February 10, 2009 meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt  
BCATS Director

*Transcribed by C. Gaul*

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